



INSPECTOR GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22350-1500

APR 26 2012

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6275

Dear Senator Grassley:

This is in response to your letter dated April 24, 2012, expressing, "grave concern about the findings contained in an Office of the Inspector General (OIG) 'Assessment Report,' dated May 16, 2011."

As the GAO acknowledged in its report, the DoD IG has embarked on an aggressive path forward to realize our vision of being the model whistleblower protection program, not only in the Department of Defense, but also in the Federal government. To that end, the DoD IG has increased the resources dedicated to the whistleblower protection program, and has asked the Secretaries of the Military Services to favorably consider requests from their Inspectors General for additional resources.

As you know, under the leadership of Mr. Gordon Heddell, the DoD IG has brought in a new leadership team to lead the whistleblower protection program, including a new Deputy IG for Administrative Investigations (AI). Along with a new Director for Whistleblower Reprisal Investigations, the DIG-AI has completed a top to bottom review and has instituted new processes which we believe will improve timeliness and quality. I believe we have made significant progress and are dedicating the necessary resources to make quality improvements in our program. I am committed to continuing on this path.

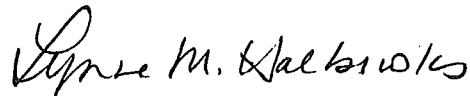
The DoD IG has also taken significant measures to improve the transparency and the integrity of the data relating to whistleblower investigations. These measures include implementing immediate improvements to legacy information management systems while simultaneously pursuing the acquisition of the next generation of technology. Technology enhancements will provide capability to the DoD IG to improve the tracking and analysis of the whistleblower investigations process, and to implement policies and procedures to measure and improve investigation timeliness.

As noted in my memorandum dated August 23, 2011, provided to your office along with the internal review, we studied the report of the independent review team and directed several actions be taken to improve the military whistleblower protection program. I strongly disagree with the assertion in your letter that "OIG officials knowingly ignored the law and showed disrespect for military whistleblowers and the core IG mission." I stand behind the continued professionalism and dedication of our reprisal investigators, past and present.

Over the past year, the DoD IG has been actively engaged in keeping Congress fully informed on the DoD whistleblower reprisal investigation program. I would be happy to meet with you personally to discuss this issue and will respond to the 16 questions that were included in your letter. As I look forward, I am confident that we will achieve our goal of having the model whistleblower protection program.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me or Mr. John R. Crane, Assistant Inspector General of Communications and Congressional Liaison at (703) 604-8324.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynne M. Halbrooks".

Lynne M. Halbrooks
Acting